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February 26, 2019

Dan Glickman

Executive Director

Congressional Program

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Roger:

I would like to invite you and Gayle to participate in a congressional conference on ***Internet, Big Data & Algorithms: Threats to Privacy and Freedom or a Gateway to a New Future***, May 10-13, 2019, in Boston. Faculty from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as other U.S. institutions, will participate in our weekend of analytical discussion. We have limited space and must hear from you proactively as soon as possible if you wish to participate.

The explosive impact of modern technology has profound implications for many sectors of modern life, providing exciting opportunities as well as a host of new policy challenges, including privacy and data protection. Our agenda addresses the dramatic influence that these technologies are having on society and politics, the evolving intersection of technology and privacy, and the policy implications of these developments.

Attendance is by invitation only, with no outside observers, lobbyists, or congressional staff. Funding is provided solely by grants from established foundations—no government, individual, corporate or special interest funds are accepted.

Under guidelines established by the Senate Select Ethics Committee, we will provide you with a signed Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form affirming that no lobbyists fund this activity, that the Aspen Institute does not hire or retain lobbyists, and that no lobbyists will be present. Our purpose is education, not advocacy.

This program is designed for Members of both the Senate and the House. Please note that because the House has adopted rules that preclude registered lobbyists from attending our events, if your accompanying spouse or family member is a registered lobbyist, the rules would bar their participation.

Departure will be on Friday, May 10th and we will return on Monday morning, May 13th. Should you accept the invitation, it is required that you participate through the duration of the conference.



2300 N St., NW

Suite 700

Washington, DC 20037

PH 202.736.5825

FX 202.785-2737

www.aspeninstitute.org



The Aspen Institute, an independent, nonprofit organization founded in 1950, provides a nonpartisan, neutral forum for leaders to discuss critical issues. The Institute's Congressional Program is designed to promote leadership on selected public policy issues in the Congress by bringing legislators together with internationally-recognized scholars and analysts in high-level discussion. Since the program's inception, over 450 Members of Congress have participated in the 137 conferences we have conducted.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 202-736-5825.

Sincerely,

Sam

Dan Glickman
Executive Director
Aspen Institute Congressional Program

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors):
The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)
2. Description of the trip: Exploring federal policy issues related to technology, use of the Internet, and artificial intelligence.
3. Dates of travel: May 10-May 13, 2019
4. Place of travel: Boston, Massachusetts
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: See attached appendix
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
-OR-
☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
-AND-
☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:
☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
-AND-
☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

OR

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (see questions 6 and 10).

OR

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

The Aspen Institute Congressional Program (AICP) is the sole sponsor of this conference and developed the agenda, organized the travel, planned the conference, and invited the participants.

See attached appendix.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

The Aspen Institute is a non-profit organization, and its broad mission is conducting nonpartisan forums and the exchange of ideas on issues impacting the U.S. and the world. AICP is a program of the Aspen Institute that provides nonpartisan educational conferences and educational forums for members of Congress and senior congressional staff members. See attached appendix

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

AICP has conducted international and domestic conferences for members of Congress for over 35 years.

On occasion, other policy programs of The Aspen Institute, Inc., sponsor conferences that involve members of Congress.

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

The Aspen Institute holds numerous educational activities, including conferences, roundtables, briefings and other nonpartisan forums on critical issues facing the U.S. and the world. AICP, specifically, offers nonpartisan educational events for members of Congress and senior congressional staff, with each event offering a leading scholar on key domestic or international issue.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate	Total: \$900 \$450 for the senator	Total: \$786 \$786 for the senator	Total: \$320 \$160 for the senator	Total: \$1012 \$506 for meeting room expenses for the senator
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	\$ 450 for the senator's spouse	\$0 for the senator's spouse	\$160 for the senator's spouse	\$506 meeting room expenses for the senator's spouse

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

This event is arranged specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

Boston enables scholars from Massachusetts Institute of Technology to participate in the conference.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Boston Marriott Cambridge

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

This hotel was selected because it is adjacent to the MIT Samberg Conference Center where conference sessions are being held. Security was also a key factor in selecting this hotel.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

Lodging and meals are below published per diem rates.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Roundtrip coach class flight on a commercial airline carrier and coach ground
(taxi/Uber/Lyft) from/to Boston airport

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor: 

Name and Title: Dan Glickman, Vice President and Director of the Congressional Program

Name of Organization: The Aspen Institute Congressional Program

Address: 2300 N St. NW Ste. 700 Washington, DC 20037

Telephone Number: 202-736-5859 (Lisa Jones)

Fax Number: NA

E-mail Address: lisa.jones@aspeninst.org

Aspen Institute Congressional Program – Boston Conference – May 2019

Appendix

Question 5: Name and title of Senate invitees:

Sen. John Boozman and Mrs. Boozman; Sen. Maggie Hassan and Mr. Hassan; Sen. Ed Markey and his wife, Susan Blumenthal; Sen. Jacky Rosen and Mr. Rosen; Sen. Dan Sullivan and Mrs. Sullivan; Sen. Rick Scott and Mrs. Scott; Sen. Roger Wicker and Mrs. Wicker

Question 12: Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting this trip:

The Aspen Institute has received general support and unrestricted funds from The Henry Luce Foundation, Democracy Fund foundation, and Rockefeller Brothers Fund foundation to support the Aspen Institute Congressional Program. These foundation funds were not earmarked for a specific trip. MIT is not a sponsor of this conference. The Aspen Institute is paying for the space and conference services at MIT.

Question 13: Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

This Boston conference "Internet, Big Data and Algorithms: Gateway to a New Future or Threat to Privacy and Freedom" intends to examine US policy as data and artificial intelligence expands and what type of regulation is needed to protect individual privacy. This conference is for members of Congress to take an in-depth look and to focus on federal policy issues related to the Internet, data collection, artificial intelligence and privacy issues.

Question 16: Breakdown of transportation expenses

Sen. Wicker: Air travel roundtrip - \$350; ground transportation from/to airport: \$100

Mrs. Wicker: Air travel roundtrip - \$350; ground transportation from/to airport: \$100

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INTERNET, BIG DATA & ALGORITHMS: GATEWAY TO A NEW FUTURE OR A THREAT TO PRIVACY AND FREEDOM

The Aspen Institute Congressional Program

May 10-13, 2019

Cambridge, Massachusetts

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Participants arrive mid-late afternoon

Sen. Wicker and Mrs. Wicker depart Washington, DC at 2:30 pm on American Airlines 2149 and arrive in Boston at 4:01 pm.

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Pre-dinner Remarks

WELCOME TO MIT

Founded in 1861, Massachusetts Institute of Technology is one of America's premier institutions of higher education. With 7,000 graduate students and 5,000 undergrads, it is poised to make a significant mark in the fields of artificial intelligence and advancements of the digital age with its new \$1 billion commitment to a College of Computing, set to open in September. The new College, with 50 new faculty positions, will work across MIT's existing five schools as part of a campus-wide effort to integrate computing and AI more deeply into the curriculum. MIT President Reif will welcome the group with this appropriate backdrop of MIT as the venue for our policy discussions.

***L. Rafael Reif, President,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology***

PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE: THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

Apple CEO Tim Cook has described privacy as a "fundamental human right." How private industry puts into practice the concepts of privacy on electronic devices whose signals can be transmitted globally both deliberately and inadvertently poses challenges for policymakers. Douglas Beck will give an industry perspective on this intersection of an important American value in light of exponentially expanding technological capability.

***Doug Beck, Vice President,
Americas and Northeast Asia, Apple, Inc.***

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussion will focus on the opportunities, challenges, and potential solutions regarding privacy and the Internet.

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Breakfast is available

THE BENEFITS AND HAZARDS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH CARE, NATIONAL SECURITY, MANUFACTURING & THE WORKFORCE

Artificial Intelligence has the potential to have significant impact in numerous sectors of society. This session will survey the landscape of what machine learning can have for changes ahead brought about by utilization and expansion of this technology in wider and wider dimensions of everyday life.

R. David Edelman, Director, Project on Technology,
Economy, and National Security, MIT

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, ALGORITHMS, FAIRNESS, AND THREATS TO PRIVACY

Today's online society is increasingly shaped by automated decision-making systems using algorithms and artificial intelligence learning models. These models are developed by individuals and companies from a particular subset of our society and may not represent a fully accurate or fair view of the world. Mathematical models that increasingly intersect citizens in their daily activities are developed by human beings and they can reflect hidden or deliberate biases. Machines, rather than humans, are making complex and morally difficult decisions on behalf of programmers, with consequences for free speech and nuanced thought. These same machines may even come to learn more about the individuals than the individuals know themselves. This unregulated new era of "Big Data" has implications for privacy and fairness that may require federal attention.

- How does this use of algorithms and Big Data impact citizens in areas such as hiring practices, job performance ratings, and credit scores, etc?
- Are there built-in inequities that should be taken into account?
- Does government have a role in alerting consumers to threats to their privacy?

Cathy O'Neil, author, *Weapons on Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy*

Discussion continues between members of Congress and scholars regarding future technologies and their implications for privacy.

1:15 PM – 3:00 PM
Roundtable Discussion

THREATS TO DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Four subtopics deserve focus: surveillance, election integrity, misinformation and disinformation, and digital manipulation for malevolent purposes. The explosion of public cameras, done for security purposes, has the potential to change the relationship between citizen and state. Nothing is more essential to the protection of democracy than fair and free elections. Yet, as the U.S. becomes more and more digitized and connected, as hackers take aim at our processes, and as foreign entities try to influence our elections, the integrity of the electoral process is jeopardized. The ease with which anyone can now manipulate information and images digitally opens up new realms of vulnerability with unknowable consequences.

- What actions can and should the U.S. Congress take to protect our freedoms and democratic rights with this explosive power of the Digital Age?
- Are citizen's rights infringed by the preponderance of public cameras?
- Will artificial intelligence enable a new era of state surveillance of citizens?
- Should online companies be subject to greater levels of liability, e.g., for defamation? If so, would these be onerous restrictions of a heavy-handed government limiting free speech or legitimate efforts to protect the public from harmful abuse?
- To what degree should governments be involved in monitoring or even regulating the spread of mis- and dis-information on the internet?
- What are the consequences for digitally spreading falsehoods?
- How do the boundaries of responsible free speech fit the Digital Age?
- Is freedom of expression in the digital world at odds with the maintenance of civic discourse?

Jonathan Zittrain, *Professor of International Law,
Harvard Law School*

Ethan Zuckerman, *Director, Center for Civic Media,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

3-5 PM

Members of Congress and scholars meet individually to discuss ideas raised in the day's discussions on internet and privacy. Scholars available to meet individually with members of Congress for in-depth discussion of ideas raised in the morning sessions include:

- **Hal Abelson**: *Internationally-renowned computer scientist who leads development of MIT's App Inventor*
- **Cathy O'Neil**: *Author and algorithmic biases expert*

- **Ethan Zuckerman:** *Internationally-renowned expert in development of healthy social media networks*
- **Jonathan Zittrain:** *Digital intellectual property and privacy law expert*

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Working Dinner

Seating is arranged to expose participants to a diverse range of views and provide the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas. Scholars and lawmakers are rotated daily. Discussion will focus on the opportunities, challenges, and potential solutions regarding the future of democracy in the 21st Century.

SUNDAY, MAY 12

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Breakfast is available

8:15 AM – 10:00 AM
Roundtable Discussion

CONSUMER'S CONSENT AND CONTROL OF ONLINE INFORMATION

In our modern world, data is key. But who actually owns the data and when or how one consents to having their data collected are disputable topics. For example, once an individual's data has been harvested and processed, through either voluntarily or involuntarily online interactions, it can be put to use in targeted consumer marketing campaigns, campaign advertisements, and individualized sales pitches. While individuals' comfort with these techniques varies, one thing is certain: marketing will never be the same. The explosive power of artificial intelligence is being harnessed for commercial advantage, which can be either advantageous or disadvantageous to the consumer depending on what perspective is held.

- Does consumer use of social media expose them to the risk of exploitation?
- Is there a federal role to protect consumers from unwanted solicitations?

Howard Beales, *Professor of Strategic Management and Public Policy, George Washington University*

Alessandro Acquisti, *Professor of Information and Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon University*

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Roundtable Discussion

PROTECTING THE DRIVE FOR INNOVATION WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NEED FOR REGULATION

Our economy is increasingly dependent on the Internet. Social media entities are incentivized to increase their user base. The major digital companies spent over \$60 million in 2018 in lobbying and consolidation in the digital industry has raised questions about the power of dominant major players. Do the practices of the economies of scale serve consumer interest, or is the potential of market dominance to the detriment of consumer choices and costs?

- What role does the federal government have in restraining the emergence of dominant major players in this industry?
- What can be done to enhance privacy protections?

- Are consumer concerns adequately taken into account by the industry?
- Do citizens have a right to conduct business online without leaving a digital footprint?

Larry Downes, Project Director,
Georgetown Center for Business and Public Policy

11:00 AM – 12:45 PM
Roundtable Discussion

BIG DATA'S END GAME: THE USE AND ABUSE OF CONSUMER DATA

Though not specified directly in the Constitution, privacy has emerged as a basic human right. Many feel that they have lost control over their personal information. They have. Those who collect information about their online users own it, not the customer. Some have called for personal ownership of the information about them. In Europe, there is a "right to be forgotten," which requires online search companies to delete information that a court decides should be forgotten. In the U.S. we have relied on the Federal Trade Commission to protect privacy against unfair practices and state law. But the European Union's General Data Privacy Regulation, and now the state of California, have imposed greater privacy protections for online behavior than previously required. (For example, Google was fined \$57 million by French regulators for breaking the GDPR rules.) One solution is to require digital companies to be "information fiduciaries" with a duty of care not to harm users.

- Do citizens have a right to maintain and control publicly available data about themselves?
- Is there a need to delineate legal boundaries on data use to protect privacy?
- What controls should Congress allow users to retain?
- Is it time for a federal privacy law for the online world?

Jack M. Balkin, Professor of Constitutional Law,
Yale University Law School

Latanya Sweeney, Professor of Government and Technology,
Harvard University

12:45 PM – 2:15 PM
Working Lunch

EXPLORING PRIVACY IN THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The legal and social boundaries of privacy have changed over time, and are based on different assumptions in different cultures and societies. Concepts about privacy rooted in the Constitution may need updating in this era of widespread digital communications with implications for federal legislators.

Daniel Weitzner, Founding Director,
MIT Internet Policy Research Initiative

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SENATORS AND OFFICERS POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

Date/Time Stamp:

This disclosure, along with a copy of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form and all attachments, **MUST** be provided to the Office of Public Records, Room 232 of the Hart Building, within 30 days after the travel is completed.

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I Sen. Roger Wicker, make the following
(Name of Senator/Officer)
disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me.

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Congressional Program)

Travel date(s): May 10-May 12, 2019

Destination(s): Boston

Name of accompanying family member (if any): Mrs. Gayle Wicker

Relationship to Member/Officer: ☒ Spouse ☐ Child

FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE LINES. IF THE COST OF LODGING DID NOT INCREASE DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Senator/Officer:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	\$620	\$786	\$160	\$506 for meeting room expenses

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable)

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	\$620	\$0	\$160	\$506 for meeting room expenses

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): See attached agenda

I HAVE MADE A DETERMINATION THAT THE TRAVEL DESCRIBED ABOVE WAS IN CONNECTION WITH MY DUTIES AS AN OFFICEHOLDER, AND DID NOT CREATE THE APPEARANCE THAT I WAS USING PUBLIC OFFICE FOR PRIVATE GAIN.

(Date)

(Signature of Senator/Officer)